

10/019142

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**531 Rec'd PCT/PT** **PATENT**  
**20 DEC 2001**

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In the **PATENT APPLICATION** of:

Wieth et al.

**Int'l. Application No:** PCT/EP01/04512

**Application No.:** Not Yet Known

**Confirmation No.:** Not Yet Known

**Filed:** Not Yet Known

**For:** METHOD AND SYSTEM FOR  
DETECTING AND REWARDING THE  
RETURNING OF SHOPPING CARTS

**Group:** Not Yet Known

**Examiner:** Not Yet Known

Our File: LBP-PT016

Date: December 20, 2001

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**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT**

Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Further to applicants' Duty of Disclosure pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.56, applicants wish to bring to the Examiner's attention the material cited on the enclosed PTO-1449 form.

The enclosed references were cited in the Search Reports from priority German applications DE 100 19 941.0, which was issued on February 20, 2001; DE 100 19 944.5, which was issued on February 16, 2001; and DE 100 19 942.9, which was issued on February 20, 2001. Copies of the Search Reports are enclosed. Of the non-English language references cited WO 98 51 1997 A1 was cited a category A (technological background) and/or category D (documents cited in the application) with respect to claim 1

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Applicant: Wieth et al.

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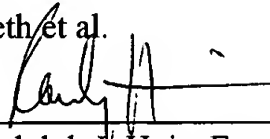
of DE 100 19 941.0, and with resident category D with respect to claims 1 and 12 in DE 100 19 942.9. DE 693 10 758 T2 was cited as category Y (document that places inventive activity (under section 43 PatG) or places inventive step (under section 7 GebrMG) in question when considered with another publication) with respect to claim 1 in DE 100 19 941.0. DE 692 15 842 T2, in particular claim 12, was cited as category Y and category A with respect to claims 2, 4 and 5 in DE 100 19 941.0. EP 04 35 225 B1 was cited as category Y with respect to claim 6 in DE 100 19 941.0 and was cited as category Y with respect to claims 1, 3, 5, 9, 12 and 14 in DE 100 19 942.9. DE 198 12 496 A1, in particular column 1, line 66-column 2, line 32; DE 197 20 527 A1 and EP 03 74 877 A2 were all cited as category A in DE 100 19 944.5.

It is respectfully requested that the Examiner consider these documents and return an initialed copy of the PTO-1449 form indicating his consideration of the cited materials.

Respectfully submitted,

Wieth et al.

By

  
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Enclosures (12)